



The Aruban Olympic Committee Honor the Sports Media

The Comité Olímpico Arubano (COA) hosted an award evening for the Aruban News Media on Tuesday in the Tropicana Showroom of the Royal Cabana Casino.

This past year four young Aruban athletes participated in the Olympic Games in Athens in Track and Field, Weightlifting and Swimming. The Aruban Olympic Committee conducted their end of year celebration to commemorate the great achievements in sports on the island this year, and particularly to honor the sports media that inform and stimulates the public about sports. As Master of Ceremonies Nicole Hoevertz stated, “If it isn’t in the newspaper, or reported on radio or TV, it is as if it never happened.” Nicole is a former Olympic contender in Synchronized Swimming and now coaches the Aruba Team.

In the presence of Minister of Sport, Culture and Labor, Ramon Lee, many sport figures of the island and the heads of the Special Olympics Committee, COA President Leo Maduro presented twenty-two beautifully engraved plaques to members of the written press, television and radio, that have admirably reported the endeavors of Aruban athletes in the past year. The News was proud to be one of this year’s recipients of this honor. In his address to the gathering, COA President Maduro expounded on the importance of encouraging Aruba’s young people to participate in sport competition. Like the U.S., Aruba’s population is facing a rise in obesity and the health problems that accompany it. Mr. Maduro stressed the importance that our young people learn the attitude and perseverance that comes with healthy athletic completion. The athletic organizations of Aruba are focusing on campaigns to spark the public interest in the many athletic pastimes that are available to them. New web sites have been set up on the Internet to inform the public, such as www.olympicaruba.com and www.deporte.com, devoted to Aruba’s athletic milieu.

The ceremony ended with a beautiful, contemporary trophy awarded to the Reporter of the Year, Leo Vrolijk of the Papiamento newspaper Awe Mainta (This Morning.) Leo had already accepted a plaque on behalf of the newspaper, and received a personal plaque for his outstanding work. The trophy was in special recognition for his rigorous attendance and reporting of all the island’s sporting events.